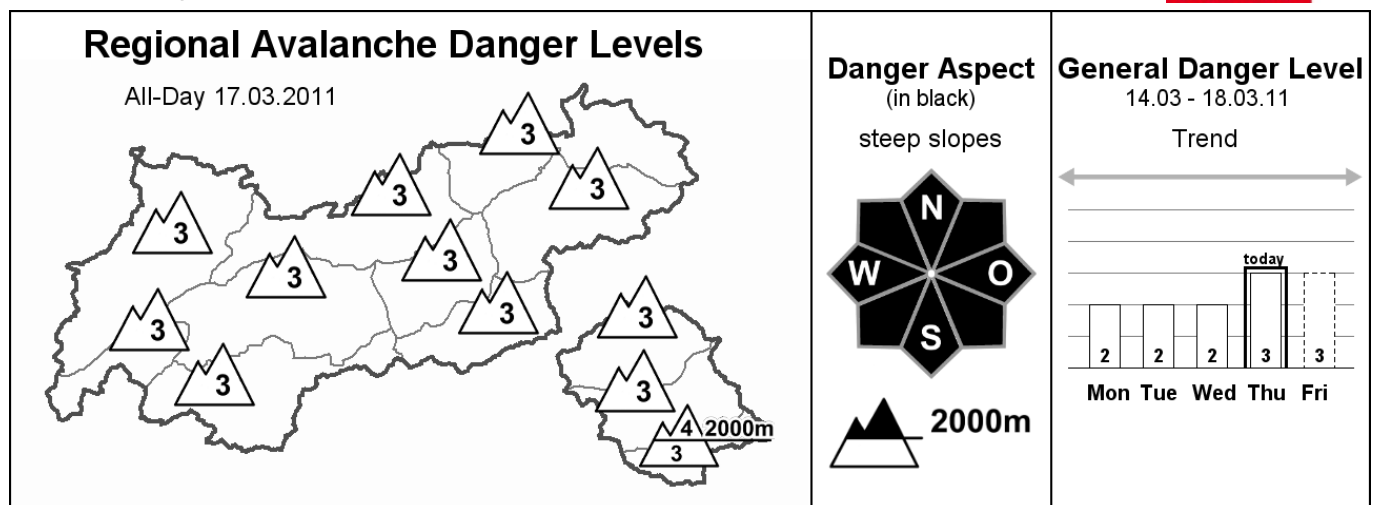


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 17.03.2011, at 07:30



Considerable avalanche danger in some regions due to snowfall

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger level in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions has risen, in general, and is now considerable far and wide. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can generally be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Caution: in the areas of heaviest precipitation, naturally triggered avalanches are likely which can even place exposed transportation routes at risk. Below about 2000 m, increasingly frequent wet avalanches can be expected, since the snowpack is now thoroughly wet. On steep, grass covered slopes, full depth snowslides are also possible.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours, the heaviest snowfall has been in East Tyrol: in the southernmost regions there was up to 40 cm, in the Defereggental 25 to 30 cm, on the Tauern Ridge about 20 cm. In North Tyrol, there was 15 to 20 cm of new fallen snow along the Main Alpine Ridge, further to the north there was less. It will continue to snow all day long today, possibly accumulating 30 to 50 cm of fresh fallen snow. At low and intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has lost its firmness through the early precipitation in the form of rain. In high alpine regions, both new fallen snow and snowdrift are being deposited on top of a weakly consolidated old snowpack. Embedded inside the old snowpack, loosely packed snow layers are interspersed with individual melt freeze crusts; this loose snow provides potential bed surfaces for avalanches.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: a low pressure system is draped over the Alps, bringing heavy precipitation to some regions; the focal point has now shifted to the northern flank of the Alps. On Friday, the weather system will gradually recede. On Saturday, a new disturbance will arrive from the northwest; thereafter, a high pressure system coming from the Atlantic will gain dominance. Mountain weather today: fog and persistent, intermittently heavy snowfall will provide unfavourable conditions. Down to the higher valleys, the landscape will become wintery again. On the mountain peaks, more than 50 cm of new fallen snow is expected in some regions by tomorrow. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 degrees. Light to moderate winds, shifting from southeasterly to northwesterly.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger is considerable widespread

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe